

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06

FEAE-00 OMB-01 INT-08 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

EA-11 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /235 W
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R 051040Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3637

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

ACONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, BR, IN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF INDIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY: INDIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SURENDRA PAL SINGH, IN COURSE OF "GOOD-WILL" VISIT TO BRAZIL, INSISTED ON THE "PEACEFUL NATURE" OF THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, OFFERED TO INCREASE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INTERCHANGE WITH BRAZIL, AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARRANGEMENT FOR SALES OF RAW MATERIALS--PRIMARILY IRON ORE--AMONG BRAZIL, INDIA AND OTHER PRODUCERS. DURING THE VISIT, AFFICIAL BRAZILIAN SOURCES WERE QUOTED AS STATING THAT
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THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST WOULD NOT AFFECT RELATIONSBETWEEN

THE TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

1. INDIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PAL SINGH LEFT BRASILIA FOR NEW DELHI ON JUNE 3, AT THE CONCLUSION OF A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BRAZIL. DESCRIBING HIS VISIT AS ONE OF GOOD WILL, WITHOUT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, SINGH WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS INSISTING ON THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, WHICH HE CALLED AN UNDERGROUND EXPLOSION -- NOT AN ATOMIC BOMB -- INTENDED TO PROVIDE DATA FOR USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN MINING AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, SINGH NOTED THAT THE INDIAN TEST WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THE FABRICATION OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON, BUT UNDERLINED THE VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN UNDERGROUND TEST AND THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY, SINCE "THE COUNTRY WHERE GHANDI WAS BORN COULD NEVER HARBOR ANY AGGRESSIVE OR WARLIKE INTENTIONS." SINGH IS QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INDIAN TEST SHOULD WORRY ONLY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH FEEL THEMSELVES AFFECTED BY IT; HE COMPLAINED THAT INDIA WAS BEING UNFAIRLY SINGLED OUT FOR CONDEMNATION OVER THE TEST, AND STATED THAT THE DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO BUILD AN ATOMIC BOMB RESTED WITH INDIA ALONE. "THE POINT IS WHETHER OR NOT THE WORLD BELIEVES IN OUR INTENTIONS." ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE ATTITUDE OF INDIA TOWARD THE REACTIONS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS CANADA, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH IS QUOTED AS REPLYING "AGGRESSIVELY, "WE DO NOT NEED CANADA. WE DO NOT DEPEND ON ANYONE. THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE TEST WAS ENTIRELY INDIAN." SINGH REPORTEDLY DENIED RUMORS THAT INDIA WAS SEEKING AN ACCORD WITH ARGENTINA FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, STATING THAT THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ARGENTINA WAS THE SAME AS THAT IN FORCE WITH BRAZIL SINCE 1968, INCLUDING COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS AND SECTORS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, BUT "EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL USES."

2. QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES HAD EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE HIGH DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION THAT HAD PERMITTED THE INDIAN TEST, SINGH PROMISED THAT THE TECHNOLOGY, RESULTS AND DATA OF THE TEST WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN SIX MONTHS. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT INDIA HAS WITHHELD NO NUCLEAR SECRETS FROM BRAZIL AND STATED THAT THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEN) WAS FULLY INFORMED ON EVENTS IN INDIA. SINGH REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT A DETAILED DISCUSSION ON INCREASING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INTERCHANGE, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT, BETWEEN INDIA AND BRAZIL DURING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CNEN, HERVASIO DE CARVALHO.

3. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH REPORTEDLY WAS VERY INTERESTED IN A PROPOSAL HE SUPPOSEDLY DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY UEKI FOR AN ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS, BASED ON OPEC. "THIS IDEA COULD BE ADOPTED IN RESPECT TO IRON ORE, BECAUSE BRAZIL, AUSTRALIA AND INDIA FURNISH A GREAT PERCENTAGE OF EXPORTS. IT WOULD BE ONE WAY OF LESSENING THE EFFECTS OF THE PETROLEUM CRISIS." SINGH CONCLUDED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE CLAIM THAT A GREAT IDENTITY OF INTERESTS EXISTED BETWEEN BRAZIL AND INDIA, ESPECIALLY ON ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

4. THE VISIT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH BROUGHT FORTH THE FIRST OFFICIAL BRAZILIAN PUBLIC REACTION WE HAVE SEEN TO THE INDIAN TEST. "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BRASILIA" WERE QUOTED IN THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE INDIAN TEST WOULD NOT AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THE SAME SOURCES "GUARANTEED" THAT THE INDIAN TEST WOULD NOT PRECIPITATE A BRAZILIAN RACE TO JOIN THE NUCLEAR CLUB. THE SOURCES CITED THE "PRAGMATIC" ATTITUDE OF THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION IN CARRYING OUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ALL SECTORS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR ENERGY, THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO BRAZIL; THUS BRAZIL WILL CONTINUE EXPERIMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, BUT NOT IN A MANNER THAT WOULD PREJUDICE PRIORITY SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. THE INDIAN TEST WAS SEEN AS COHERENT WITH PRIOR STATEMENTS OF INDIAN POLICY, AND THE SOURCES JUDGED THAT INDIA HAD SUFFICIENTLY DEFINED ITS POLICY AS ONE OF PEACEFUL USES. CRIMMINS

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